

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action of April 7, 2005.

Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Second Response, claims 1-28 remain pending in this application.

Claims 12, 13, 22, and 23 are cancelled and claims 1-3, 7, 10, 11, 14-15 are directly amended herein. Additionally, claims 24-28 are newly added. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

Claims 22 and 23 have been withdrawn from consideration and therefore have been cancelled via the amendments set forth herein. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 22 and 23 in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

Response to Specification Objections

The specification is objected to as allegedly comprising improper language for an Abstract of a disclosure. Applicant asserts that the Abstract has been amended herein to comply with the Office Action. It is believed that the foregoing amendments to the Abstract add no new matter to the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Response to Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to as allegedly including two reference numbers not mentioned in the description. Applicant asserts that reference numeral 110 in FIG. 2 has been

removed and reference numeral 424 in FIG. 6 has been removed. Thus, the drawings have been amended herein to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5). It is believed that the foregoing drawing changes add no new matter to the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Response to Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 7-21 are objected to due to various alleged informalities. In this regard, Applicant asserts that claims 3, 7, 10, and 15 have been directly amended herein to comply with requirements in the Office Action. It is believed that the foregoing amendments to the claims add no new matter to the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 3 and 7-21 be withdrawn.

Response to §102 Rejections

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See, e.g., *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Claim 1

Claim 1 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Kalstrom et al.* (US 5,480,329) and as allegedly being anticipated by *Lai et al.* (US 5,603,639). Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A connector for connecting a subscriber line to an electrical component, the connector comprising:

a housing having a receiving slot, the housing coupled to a plurality of receptacles for receiving the subscriber line and electrically coupling the subscriber line to the electrical component, the electrical component having a surface having at least one first opening and a connector receptacle; and

a clip having a first foot slidably coupled to an inner wall of the housing, the inner wall defining the receiving slot, the clip further having an attachment portion and a second opening through the attachment portion, the attachment portion positioned such that the second opening substantially aligns with the first opening when the connector is inserted into the connector receptacle. (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully submits that *Kalstrom* and *Lai* fail to disclose at least the features of amended claim 1 highlighted above.

In this regard, *Kalstrom* appears to disclose a plug connector housing for receiving a plug and mounting the plug to a plug connector. See *Kalstrom*, column 3, lines 22-23. However, it appears that the plug connector housing does not disclose a “housing coupled to a plurality of receptacles for receiving the subscriber line and electrically coupling the subscriber line to the electrical component,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, *Lai* appears to disclose a connector housing having a clip that aligns a connector housing with a printed circuit board, and the connector housing attaches to the printed circuit board. See *Lai*, FIG. 2, column 7, lines 27-37. In this regard, the clips disclosed in *Lai* apparently provide alignment holes (74), which align the connector housing to holes (48) on the printed circuit board. However, each screw opening (77) of the clip “align[s] properly with the opening 64 of the of the connector body 20, with the screw nut 61 already placed in the proper location in the opening 64.” See *Lai*, FIG. 2; column 7, lines 28-37. Thus, it does not appear that *Lai* discloses “the attachment portion positioned such that the second opening substantially aligns with the first opening when the connector is inserted into the connector receptacle,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, *Kalstrom* and *Lai* each fail to disclose a “housing coupled to a plurality of receptacles for receiving the subscriber line and electrically coupling the subscriber line to the electrical component,” or “a clip having a first foot slidably coupled to an inner wall of the housing, the inner wall defining the receiving slot, the clip further having an attachment portion and a second opening through the attachment portion, the attachment portion positioned such that the second opening substantially aligns with the first opening when the connector is inserted into the connector receptacle,” as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that *Kalstrom* and *Lai* fail to disclose each feature of claim 1, and the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 should, therefore, be withdrawn.

Claims 2-11, 14, and 27

Claims 3-7 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Kalstrom*. In addition, claims 3-11 and 14 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by *Lai*, and claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Karlstrom* in view of Applicant’s admitted prior art (APA), FIGs. 2 and 4. Furthermore, claim 27 is newly added. Applicant submits that the pending dependent claims 2-11, 14 and 27 contain all features of their respective independent claim 1. Since claim 1 should be allowed, as argued hereinabove, pending dependent claims 2-11, 14, and 27 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 15

Claim 15 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Kalstrom et al.* (US 5,480,329) and as allegedly being anticipated *Tso-Chin et al.* (US 6,210,216). Claim 15 reads as follows:

15. A system, comprising:

a chassis coupled to a plurality of transceivers, the chassis having a receptacle electrically coupled to each of the transceivers, the chassis having a first opening;

a connector attached to the receptacle, the connector having a housing, a clip slidably coupled to the housing, and receptacles coupled to a plurality of subscriber lines, the receptacles housed within the housing, wherein each of a plurality of the receptacles is electrically coupled to a respective one of the transceivers and to a respective one of the subscriber lines, the clip having a second opening aligned with the first opening; and

a screw passing through the first and second openings thereby securing the clip to the chassis. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that *Kalstrom* and *Tso-Chin* fail to disclose at least the features of amended claim 15 highlighted above.

As described hereinabove with reference to claim 1, *Kalstrom* appears to disclose a plug connector housing for receiving a plug and mounting the plug to a plug connector. See *Kalstrom*, column 3, lines 22-23. However, it appears that the plug connector housing does not disclose “a connector attached to the receptacle, the connector having a housing, a clip slidably coupled to the housing, and receptacles coupled to a plurality of subscriber lines, the receptacles housed within the housing, wherein each of a plurality of the receptacles is electrically coupled to a respective one of the transceivers and to a respective one of the subscriber lines,” as recited in amended claim 15.

Furthermore, *Tso-Chin* appears to disclose a connector that is connected to a grounding device 44 via a fastener 26. See *Tso-Chin*, column 3, lines 10-31. However, the

connector does not comprise a “a screw passing through the first and second openings thereby securing the clip to the chassis” (emphasis added), as recited in amended claim 15.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that *Kalstrom* and *Tso-Chin* fail to disclose each feature of claim 15, and the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 15 should, therefore, be withdrawn.

Claims 16-21 and 24-26

Claims 16-18 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Kalstrom*, and claims 16-21 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Tso-Chin*. Furthermore, claims 24-26 are newly added. Applicant submits that the pending dependent claims 16-21 and 24-26 contain all features of their respective independent claim 15. Since claim 15 should be allowed, as argued hereinabove, pending dependent claims 16-21 and 24-26 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 28

Claim 28 is newly added and reads as follows:

28. A method, comprising the steps of:
providing a housing having a receiving slot in a surface of the housing;
sliding a clip into the receiving slot;
coupling a plurality of receptacles within the housing to a receptacle of
a chassis such that transceivers within the chassis are electrically coupled to
the plurality of receptacles, wherein each of the plurality of receptacles is
electrically coupled to a respective subscriber line; and
securing the clip to the chassis, wherein the securing step comprises
the step of passing a screw through an opening in the clip and an opening in
the chassis.

Applicant respectfully submits that each limitation in claim 28 is not disclosed in the references cited. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 28 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding election/restriction requirements be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings:

Please replace drawing sheet 2 (showing Fig. 2) and drawing sheet 5 (showing Figs. 6 and 7) with the newly submitted figures attached herewith on separate sheets.

In the Specification

Please amend the Abstract of the disclosure by inserting the underlined text ("____") and removing the stricken text ("—").

A connector for connecting a subscriber line to an electrical component ~~eomprises~~has a housing, ~~and the housing has~~ having a receiving slot. The connector further ~~eomprises~~has a clip slidably coupled to and retained by an inner wall of the housing, the inner wall defining the receiving slot.